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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,284	11/30/2000	Nicole Dawn Hartman	AUS000445US1	3310

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EXAMINER

SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELMI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/726,284

Applicant(s)

HARTMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Salad E Abdullahi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-24 are pending. The rejection cited stated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 15, 19 and 20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bare et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,654,382 (hereafter called Bare).

As per claim 1, Bare discloses a method of identifying a device (12) in a computer network (AP1), comprising:

- indicating information that specifies the device (typing and entering the appropriate command line specifying a logical address to be programmed on the device) (see col. 6, lines 1-11);
- issuing a network command (issuing ping command or ARP request) targeting the specified device (see col. 6, lines 1-21); and
- responsive to the targeted device receiving the network command (ping or echo request, or ARP request) performing a user (network manager) detectable action (i.e., illuminating light) on the targeted device (in response to the target device

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12 receiving command, the target device illuminates light that can be detected by the network manager (see col. 5, lines 23-67, where as a result of receiving a command the targeted device 12 illuminate LED 28, see also col. 7, lines 11-12, where the command can be received over the network using specific code).

As per claim 2, Bare discloses the method of claim 1, wherein indicating information that specifies the device comprises indicating the Internet protocol (IP) address of the specified device (i.e., the logical address) (see col. 6, lines 1-4).

As per claim 6, Bare discloses the method of claim 1, wherein issuing a network command includes issuing an Internet Communication Messaging Protocol (ICMP) echo request (ping request) (see col. 6, lines 1-11).

As per claim 10, Bare discloses a computer network (AP1) comprising:

- a first device (20) connected to a network interconnect (see col. 4, lines 59-60), the first device including processor, memory, input means, and display (see laptop 20), wherein the memory of the first device contains processor executable instructions (ping command) for identifying a device on the network (identifying logical address of a network device) including:
 - program code (see flow chart fig. 3) means enabling a user (network manager) to indicate information that specifies the device (a network manager typing or enters a logical address specifying the logical address to

- be programmed on the device) (see fig. 3, and col. 4, lines 7-25 and col. 6, lines 1-20); and
- program code (see fig. 3) means for issuing a network command targeting the specified device (transmitting a ping command or ARP request or echo request targeting the specified logical address of the network device) (see col. 6, lines 1-38); and
 - a second device (12) connected to the network interconnect, the second device including (processor 32) and memory (37), (see col. 5, lines 12-40), wherein the memory of the second device containing processor executable instructions including program code means for performing a user detectable action (Hub controller 32 determining when learn mode is activated responsive to the command received and activating LED 28 to illuminate light that can be detected by the network manager or responsive of receiving ping echo request displaying text that can be detected by the network manager) (see col. 4, lines 66 to col. 5, line 29 and col. 6, lines 1-38, see also col. 7, lines 11-12, where a network command can be received over the network using specific code).

As per claim 11, Bare discloses the network of claim 10, wherein the program code (see fig. 3) means for indicating information that specifies the device include code means for indicating the Internet protocol (IP) address of the specified device (i.e., the logical address) (see col. 6, lines 1-4).

As per claim 15, Bare disclose the network of claim 10, wherein issuing a network command includes issuing an Internet Communication Messaging Protocol (ICMP) echo request (ping request) (see col. 6, lines 1-11).

As per claim 19, Bare discloses a computer program product (flow chart on fig. 3) residing on a computer usable medium for identifying a device on a computer network, the computer program product comprising:

- program code (flow chart on fig. 3) means enabling a user to indicate information that specifies the device(see fig. 3, and col. 4, lines 7-25 and col. 6, lines 1-20);
- program code means for issuing a network command targeting the specified device (transmitting a ping command or ARP request or echo request targeting the specified logical address of the network device 12) (see col. 6, lines 1-38);
and
- program code means for performing a user detectable action of the targeted device (12) responsive to receiving the network command (the targeted device activating LED 28 to illuminate light that can be detected by the network manager or responsive of receiving ping echo request displaying a text that can be detected by the network manager) (see col. 4, lines 66 to col. 5, line 29 and col. 6, lines 1-38).

As per claim 20, Bare discloses the computer program produce of claim 19, wherein the program code means for indicating information that specifies the device include code means for indicating the Internet protocol (IP) address of the specified device (i.e., the logical address) (see col. 6, lines 1-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bare as applied to claims 1, 10 and 19 above, and further in view of Redlich U.S. Patent No. 6,591,306 (hereinafter Redlich).

As per claim 3, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 1, including the step of indicating information that specifies the device comprises a logical address.

Bare is silent regarding: wherein the indicating information that specifies the device comprises indicating a host name of the specified device.

Redlich, discloses a method for identifying network devices by indicating a host name of the specified device (see col. 7, lines 45-65 and col. 28, lines 45-55). Furthermore, Redlich, teaches any entity or device can be identified by either a human readable name (host name) or other identifiers such as Internet protocol (IP) address. In this regard, Redlich teaches DNS is used to translate human readable names for the devices into the corresponding IP-address. Hence, one having ordinary skill would have been motivated to specify a device by the easy to remember a human readable host names rather than use the more difficult to remember IP addresses as taught by Redlich. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Redlich into Bare's system because specifying a device by its host name known to be easier to remember than identifying the specified device to other identifiers such as IP addresses, thus enabling the network manager to identify and configure the target device with ease.

As per claim 4, Redlich disclose the method of claim 3, further comprising converting (mapping) the host name to a corresponding IP address (see col. 7, lines 45-65 and col.

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28, lines 45-55).

As per claim 5, Redlich disclose the method of claim 4, wherein converting the host name includes accessing a Domain Name Server (DNS) of the computer (see col. 7, lines 45-65 and col. 28, lines 45-55).

As per claim 12, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 10, including a program code for indicating information that that specifies the device comprising a logical address,

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the program code specifies for indicating information that specifies the device comprise indicating a code for indicating a host name of the specified device.

Redlich, discloses a method for identifying network devices by indicating a host name of the specified device (see col. 7, lines 45-65 and col. 28, lines 45-55). Furthermore, Redlich, teaches any entity or device can be identified by either a human readable name (host name) or other identifiers such as Internet protocol (IP) address. In this regard, Redlich teaches DNS is used to translate human readable names for the devices into the corresponding IP-address. Hence, one having ordinary skill would have been motivated to specify a device by the easy to remember a human readable host names rather than use the more difficult to remember IP addresses as taught by Redlich. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

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the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Redlich into Bare's system because specifying a device by its host name known to be easier to remember than identifying the specified device to other identifiers such as IP addresses, thus enabling the network manager to identify and configure the target device with ease.

As per claim 13, Redlich discloses the network of claim 10, further comprising converting (mapping) the host name to a corresponding IP address (see col. 7, lines 45-65 and col. 28, lines 45-55).

As per claim 14, Redlich discloses the network of claim 10, wherein converting the host name includes accessing a Domain Name Server (DNS) of the computer network (see col. 6, lines 33-36).

As per claim 21, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 19, including a program code for indicating information that that specifies the device comprising a logical address,

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the program code specifies for indicating information that specifies the device comprise indicating a code for indicating a host name of the specified device.

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Redlich, discloses a method for identifying network devices by indicating a host name of the specified device (see col. 7, lines 45-65 and col. 28, lines 45-55). Furthermore, Redlich, teaches any entity or device can be identified by either a human readable name (host name) or other identifiers such as Internet protocol (IP) address. In this regard, Redlich teaches DNS is used to translate human readable names for the devices into the corresponding IP-address. Hence, one having ordinary skill would have been motivated to specify a device by the easy to remember a human readable host names rather than use the more difficult to remember IP addresses as taught by Redlich. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Redlich into Bare's system because specifying a device by its host name known to be easier to remember than identifying the specified device to other identifiers such as IP addresses, thus enabling the network manager to identify and configure the target device with ease.

As per claim 22, Redlich discloses the computer program produce of claim 21, further comprising code means for converting the host name to a corresponding IP address by accessing a Domain Name Server (DNS) of the computer network (see col. 7, lines 45-65 and col. 28, lines 45-55).

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5. Claims 7, 16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bare as applied to claims 1, 10 and 19 above, and further in view of Redlich U.S. Patent No. 6,591,306 (hereinafter Redlich).

As per claim 7, Bare et al., discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 1, including wherein the in issuing a network command includes issuing ICMP Echo request (Ping request, ARP).

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the number of echo requests exceeds a predetermined threshold.

Redlich, in an analogous art disclose a system for providing configuration information to a network device including the step of issuing number of consecutive ping requests and wherein the number of echo requests exceeds a predetermined threshold (see col. 19, lines 46-67 and col. 20, line 66 to col. 21, line 30). Furthermore, Redlich teaches when the number of requests (i.e., ping or ARP) exceeds certain threshold the device receiving the requests perform some action such as giving its own address. Hence, one of ordinary skill would have readily recognized the advantage of using threshold number requests in Bare's system to ensure the target device is responsive. Therefore, it would have been obvious to having ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to incorporate the teaching Redlich into Bare's system such that the targeted device responses are correctly received, thus ensuring the target device is alive.

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As per claim 16, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 10, issuing a network command includes issuing ICMP Echo request (ping request , ARP).

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the number of echo requests exceeds a predetermined threshold.

Redlich, in an analogous art disclose a system for providing configuration information to a network device including the step of issuing number of consecutive ping requests and wherein the number of echo requests exceeds a predetermined threshold (see col. 19, lines 46-67 and col. 20, line 66 to col. 21, line 30). Furthermore, Redlich teaches when the number of requests (i.e., ping or ARP) exceeds certain threshold the device receiving the requests perform some action such as giving its own address. Hence, one of ordinary skill would have readily recognized the advantage of using threshold number requests in Bare's system to ensure the target device is responsive. Therefore, it would have been obvious to having ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to incorporate the teaching Redlich into Bare's system such that the targeted device responses are correctly received, thus ensuring the target device is alive.

As per claim 23, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 19, including issuing a network command includes issuing ICMP Echo request (Ping request, ARP).

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the number of echo requests exceeds a predetermined threshold.

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Redlich, in an analogous art disclose a system for providing configuration information to a network device including the step of issuing number of consecutive ping requests and wherein the number of echo requests exceeds a predetermined threshold (see col. 19, lines 46-67 and col. 20, line 66 to col. 21, line 30). Furthermore, Redlich teaches when the number of requests (i.e., ping or ARP) exceeds certain threshold the device receiving the requests perform some action such as giving its own address. Hence, one of ordinary skill would have readily recognized the advantage of using threshold number requests in Bare's system to ensure the target device is responsive. Therefore, it would have been obvious to having ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to incorporate the teaching Redlich into Bare's system such that the targeted device responses are correctly received, thus ensuring the target device is alive.

6. Claims 8-9, 17-18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bare as applied to claims 1, 10 and 19 above, and further in view of Raith U.S. Patent No. 6,510,515 (hereinafter Raith).

As per claim 8, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 1, including the step of performing user detectable action (i.e. illuminating a light or displaying text on a display device),

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the performing a user detectable action includes issuing an audible sound with the target device; and

Raith, discloses a method for controlling a network device, wherein the network device performs variety of user detectable action, wherein the user detectable action includes issuing an audible sound with the target device and displaying visual indicator (e.g. Icon) responsive of receiving information or instruction (see 6, col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, line 2). Furthermore, although Bare's system displays a user detectable actions such as illuminating light through LED or displaying text information however additional user detectable actions such issuing an audible sound or displaying visual display such Icon as suggested by Raith would be advantageous to Bare's system as it provides an audible and visual feedback to the network manager which enables the network manager, hence ensuring certain command or instruction or action has been received or performed by the targeted device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Raith into Bare's system because performing user detectable action such issuing audible sound or displaying graphic/Icon would provide additional useful features in aiding the network manager in his effort to identify and configure network devices.

As per claim 9, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 1, including the step of performing user detectable action (i.e. illuminating a light or displaying text on a display device),

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the performing a user detectable action includes displaying predetermined image on display device of the target device.

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Raith, discloses a method for controlling a network device, wherein the network device performs variety of user detectable action, wherein the user detectable action includes issuing an audible sound with the target device and displaying visual indicator, e.g. Icon responsive of receiving information or instruction (see 6, col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, line 2). Furthermore, although Bare's system displays a user detectable actions such as illuminating light through LED or displaying text information however additional user detectable actions such issuing an audible sound or displaying visual display such Icon as suggested by Raith would be advantageous to Bare's system as it provides an audible and visual feedback to the network manager which enables the network manager, hence ensuring certain command or instruction or action has been received or performed by the targeted device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Raith into Bare's system because performing user detectable action such issuing audible sound or displaying graphic/Icon would provide additional useful features in aiding the network manager in his effort to identify and configure network devices

As per claims 17, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 10, including the step of performing user detectable action (i.e., illuminating a light or displaying text on a display device).

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the code for performing a user detectable action includes code issuing an audible sound with the target device; and

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Raith, discloses a method for controlling a network device, wherein the network device performs variety of user detectable action, wherein the user detectable action includes issuing an audible sound with the target device and displaying visual indicator, e.g. Icon responsive of receiving information or instruction (see 6, col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, line 2). Furthermore, although Bare's system displays a user detectable actions such as illuminating light through LED or displaying text information however additional user detectable actions such issuing an audible sound or displaying visual display such Icon as suggested by Raith would be advantageous to Bare's system as it provides an audible and visual feedback to the network manager which enables the network manager, hence ensuring certain command or instruction or action has been received or performed by the targeted device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Raith into Bare's system because performing user detectable action such issuing audible sound or displaying graphic/Icon would provide additional useful features in aiding the network manager in his effort to identify and configure network devices.

As per claim 18, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 10, including the step of performing user detectable action (i.e., illuminating a light or displaying text on a display device),

Bare is silent regarding:

wherein the performing a user detectable action includes displaying
predetermined image on display device of the target device.

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Raith, discloses a method for controlling a network device, wherein the network device performs variety of user detectable action, wherein the user detectable action includes issuing an audible sound with the target device and displaying visual indicator, e.g. Icon responsive of receiving information or instruction (see 6, col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, line 2). Furthermore, although Bare's system displays a user detectable actions such as illuminating light through LED or displaying text information however additional user detectable actions such issuing an audible sound or displaying visual display such Icon as suggested by Raith would be advantageous to Bare's system as it provides an audible and visual feedback to the network manager which enables the network manager, hence ensuring certain command or instruction or action has been received or performed by the targeted device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Raith into Bare's system because performing user detectable action such issuing audible sound or displaying graphic/Icon would provide additional useful features in aiding the network manager in his effort to identify and configure network devices.

As per claim 24, Bare discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 19, including a program code for performing user detectable action (i.e. illuminating a light or displaying text on a display device) of the target device,

Bare is silent regarding:

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wherein the code for performing a user detectable action includes a code for issuing an audible sound with the target device; and

Raith, discloses a method for controlling a network device, wherein the network device performs variety of user detectable action, wherein the user detectable action includes issuing an audible sound with the target device and displaying visual indicator, e.g. Icon responsive of receiving information or instruction (see 6, col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, line 2). Furthermore, although Bare's system displays a user detectable actions such as illuminating light through LED or displaying text information however additional user detectable actions such issuing an audible sound or displaying visual display such Icon as suggested by Raith would be advantageous to Bare's system as it provides an audible and visual feedback to the network manager which enables the network manager, hence ensuring certain command or instruction or action has been received or performed by the targeted device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Raith into Bare's system because performing user detectable action such issuing audible sound or displaying graphic/Icon would provide additional useful features in aiding the network manager in his effort to identify and configure network devices.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1) Onsen U.S. Patent No. 6,473,811. Provides a system for displaying connection/configuration status on network devices in response receiving a network command.

2) Landt U.S. Patent No. 6,677,852. Provides a system for automatically configuring a network device and the network derive as result of receiving a command from a user issues variety of user detectable action including multicolor light and audible sound.

3. Nelson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,835,720. Provides an IP discovery system for discovering network device by issuing plurality of ICMP echo request.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 703-308-8441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should mailed to:

Box AF

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) (872-9306).



Abdullahi salad

Examiner Art unit 2157

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